

CALENDAR

Downpatrick, Ballee & Clough

Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Churches

July and August 2018

From the Minister:

As we have done over the last few years we will be having a joint service at each church in turn at 10.30 am over the months of July and August. The full list of the services can be found in the Calendar.

Last year we spent some time over summer looking at different aspects of the history of our denomination and to follow that this year we will look at some of the famous personalities who were associated with our denomination in Ireland. In "Pioneers of Our Faith" we look in turn at some of the most prominent thinkers and personalities who helped develop our denomination and its ethos. These will be, in turn, John Abernethy, Samuel Haliday, James Kirkpatrick, Henry Montgomery, and David Maginnis. Of these the least famous is the local born David Maginnis who deserves to be better known. All were remarkable characters in their own right but I hope the talks will not be dry historical narratives. They will include, for instance, tales of controversy; travels around Europe at a time when this was rare, dangerous and expensive; missing diaries believed to be secretly kept under lock and key; a book thought to be lost for 180 years and discovered by the present writer; five hour sermons given to appreciative audiences (not to be repeated this year); and the tale of

theological exploration expanding our appreciation of the divine.

Also over summer we will be having a Praise and Favourite Hymns service on Sunday, 19th August which will also include other special music. We will need suggestions for the hymns to be sung at the service so please pass them on.

As a denomination we were very sad to lose the Rev Sam Peden who died in May. Our deepest sympathy goes to Sam's family. Among other churches Sam was minister of Rademon and we wish Dr Heather Walker well as she is ordained as the new minister there on 23rd June.

David Steers

Forthcoming Dates:

Saturday, 30th June Joint Afternoon Tea Party at the Lakeside Inn at 2.00 pm.

Thursday, 5th July meeting of the Presbytery of Antrim at Ballycarry at 7.30 pm.

Saturday, 4th August Downpatrick Treasure Hunt at the Lakeside Inn starting at 6.15 – 7.30 pm.

Sunday, 2nd September Downpatrick Family Service at 11.15 am.

Sunday, 9th September Service for the Ordination as Elders of Myrtle McBride and Dr Charles Stewart at Downpatrick at 3.30 pm.

Saturday, 29th September Ballee Table Quiz at the Lakeside Inn at 7.30 for 8.00 pm.

Services in July and August

Date	Downpatrick	Ballee	Clough
1 st July	<i>Joint Service at Clough at 10.30 am</i>	<i>Joint Service at Clough at 10.30 am</i>	10.30 am Rev Dr David Steers “Pioneers of our Faith”: John Abernethy
8 th July	<i>Joint Service at Ballee at 10.30 am</i>	10.30 am Rev Dr David Steers “Pioneers of our Faith”: Samuel Haliday	<i>Joint Service at Ballee at 10.30 am</i>
15 th July	10.30 am Rev Dr David Steers “Pioneers of our Faith”: James Kirkpatrick	<i>Joint Service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i>	<i>Joint Service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i>
22 nd July	<i>Joint Service at Clough at 10.30 am</i>	<i>Joint Service at Clough at 10.30 am</i>	10.30 am Rev Dr William Patterson
29 th July	<i>Joint Service at Ballee at 10.30 am</i>	10.30 am Rev Dr William Patterson	<i>Joint Service at Ballee at 10.30 am</i>
5 th August	10.30 am Rev Dr David Steers “Pioneers of our Faith”: Henry Montgomery	<i>Joint Service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i>	<i>Joint Service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i>
12 th August	<i>Joint Service at Clough at 10.30 am</i>	<i>Joint Service at Clough at 10.30 am</i>	10.30 am Rev Dr David Steers “Pioneers of our Faith”: David Maginnis
19 th August	<i>Joint Service at Ballee at 10.30 am</i>	10.30 am Rev Dr David Steers Praise & Favourite Hymns Service	<i>Joint Service at Ballee at 10.30 am</i>
26 th August	10.30 am Rev Dr David Steers	<i>Joint Service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i>	<i>Joint Service at Downpatrick at 10.30 am</i>

Around the Fellowship

Our thoughts and prayers are with all members of our churches who have been unwell recently and especially with Myrtle McBride who is in hospital and with Raymond Hodges who has been in hospital. We wish them both good health for the future.

Our best wishes are with all our younger members who have been taking important exams either at school or university in recent times, many of whom are waiting for their results in forthcoming weeks. Our especial congratulations go to those who will be graduating this summer and who have successfully concluded their degree courses and have done so well, including Robert Neill who will graduate from Queen's University in Zoology, Jamie Skillen, who will graduate from the University of Ulster in Computer Science, and Jack Steers who will graduate from Queen's University in Computer Science.

Our best wishes also goes to Tierna Kelly who is part of a team of eight young people from Downpatrick Youth Initiatives who will be working over the summer in partnership with Dublin Christian Mission in the socially deprived communities of Dublin. They will be serving in kids' clubs and running activities and outreach events for the local communities, we wish her well in that work

Thank you to everyone who supported the Ballee and District Community Group Tea Party held at Ballee on 9th June which proved a very successful occasion.

Clough Dance in the Millennium Hall

This was held on Friday, 27th April and was a very successful event. There was another big crowd and over £414 raised. A big thank you goes to everyone who supported the event, brought prizes, helped in any way and particularly to Keith Straney and his family.

Presbytery of Antrim Visitation Service, Downpatrick

We are indebted to everyone who helped with the preparation for this event which took place on Sunday, 27th May following all the various meetings which preceded it. Thank you also to the members of the Presbytery who gave their time and produced the reports all of which are very positive. Copies of the reports can be obtained in the church if you haven't got one.

Masonic Province of Down 150th Anniversary Service at Downpatrick

Thank you to everyone who helped with this event on Sunday, 20th May, particularly those who helped with refreshments and joined the choir.

NSPCI Sunday School Service and Exhibition

This took place at Killinchy on Friday, 1st June at 7.30 pm. All three Sunday Schools were well represented by their excellent, creative work which was on display along with all the other impressive work from around the denomination. The three churches were represented at the service and Laura Neill took part playing the bagpipes. All three Sunday Schools did exceptionally well with Ballee winning 3 prizes, Downpatrick 4 and Clough 19. All the work will be displayed in the churches and the prizes awarded at the Children's Day/Family Service. Included in the prizes were two special awards – to Molly Rooney (Clough), the Committee Award for the Best Written Entry and to Laura Neill, the Mary Warrick Memorial Award for Best Solo Performance. Well done everyone.

Ballee Working Party

Thank you to the good number of people who came along for the working party at Ballee on Saturday, 16th June. A lot was accomplished in fixing up the property and tidying up the premises.

Joint Afternoon Tea Party

This year this will be held on Saturday, 30th June at the Lakeside Inn at 2.00 pm. This is always such an enjoyable occasion for members of all three churches. Everyone is welcome but we particularly hope that any older members who perhaps don't always get out and about so much will come along. Lifts can be arranged for anyone who needs them. Any help with catering and with serving on the day will be very gratefully received.

Downpatrick Treasure Hunt

We look forward to this very popular event which this year will take place on Saturday, 4th August at the Lakeside Inn. Cars will leave from the car park between 6.15 and 7.30 pm. Tickets are £12.50 (adults) and £4 for children and this includes a hog roast and salad or hot dogs for children. Please contact Margaret Ferguson to book your tickets on 07789208859. This is always a popular event so please book your place before Monday, 30th July. In Downpatrick Robyn Nixon has provided the Hamper List for the Treasure Hunt Raffle on the communion table if anyone would like to contribute to this prize.

Praise and Favourite Hymns Service

This will be at the joint service at Ballee at 10.30 am on Sunday, 19th August and will also include special music. But please give your suggestions for hymns you would like sung to the minister or to John Strain.

Denominational Roll of Honour

I am currently updating the First World War Roll of Honour for the denomination. A Roll of Honour was begun during the First World War but never continued past February 1916. I am endeavouring to list as many people as possible who served in the Great War. So far I have found well over 500 names of those who served and over 80 names of those who gave their lives. The project has been given funding by the John Alexander Bright Memorial Fund and to mark publication we will have a special service of dedication for the denomination at Downpatrick on Sunday, 18th November at 3.00 pm to which everyone will be invited. If anyone has any information about anyone in the denomination who served in the Great War please let me know.

Events in September

Please note the following forthcoming events in September:

The Downpatrick Family Service will be held on Sunday, 2nd September at 11.15 am. The ordination of Myrtle McBride and Dr Charles Stewart by the Presbytery of Antrim as new elders for Downpatrick will take place on Sunday, 9th September at 3.30 pm.

The Ballee Table Quiz will take place on Saturday, 29th September at 7.30 for 8.00 pm at the Lakeside Inn.

Advance Notice - the Downpatrick Table Quiz will take place on Saturday, 1st December at the Lakeside Inn.